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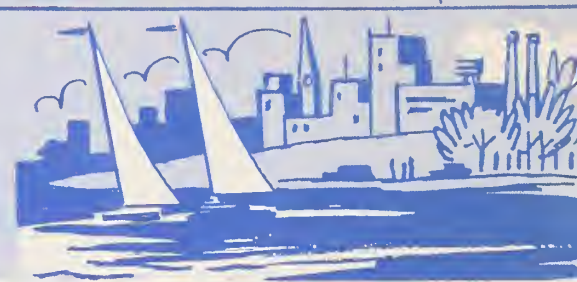


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# WATER

## FOR FARM AND CITY



Next to air, water is our most important resource for survival. You can live longer without food than you can without water.

The land is the great gathering place and storage reservoir of fresh water. Like food, water is a product of the land. Water in the clouds is useful to man only after it reaches the earth as rain or snow.

Nearly every community has a water problem—water shortage, poor water, or flood, or some combination of these problems. Many rural and urban water problems trace back to the land—to the local watershed<sup>1</sup> where rain or snow falls.

Farmers and ranchers who control our farmlands, rangelands, and woodlands control to an important degree the movement of the water that falls on their property.

Public land—the National and State forests, the National and State parks, and the public domain—is equally important to the water supply of the watersheds of which they are a part.

The use and treatment of all land in a watershed determines to a large extent the quantity, quality, and dependability of the water supply in that watershed for all purposes—agricultural, domestic, municipal, industrial, recreational.

Water problems, therefore, are local problems of equal concern to farm and city people.

This fact sheet gives overall background on water and watershed problems, together with information on the help the Federal Government provides—largely through the States and local units of government—in the solution of water problems.

### From the Tap to the Land

You know about water. It's something you drink, cook with, or bathe in. Water also can be fun—swimming, boating, fishing.

But how much more do you know about water?

<sup>1</sup> Watershed—A watershed is the land area that drains into a creek, a river, or an ocean. A watershed may be as big as the Mississippi River system, which in turn is made up of almost countless small watersheds, or as small as a few acres draining into a growing gully. The use and treatment of those few acres affect not only the land but also water use and water supply.

Our farms and ranches require great quantities of water to produce food, fibers, and the raw materials which agriculture provides for industry.

Without water, the wheels of industry would stop. Falling water generates one-fifth of our electricity. And water in steam turbines generates most of the remaining electric power we use.



Without water, our cities would die.

Transportation by water is important to our national economy.

Water is the source of much of our recreation. It sustains the wild creatures we enjoy.

And the tap in your home, the water main to your factory, the fire hydrant on the corner, your favorite trout stream, and the irrigation canal all carry water that flowed across the land of a watershed or seeped deep into natural underground storage reservoirs.

Farm and city people alike, therefore, are concerned with the use, development, and wise management of watersheds.

### Our Growing Demand for Water

We are using more water every year.

In 1950 we had twice as many people to use water as we had in 1900. And our average per capita use of water was almost twice as much—1,100 gallons a day in 1950—compared with 600 gallons in 1900.

As a result, total water use in the United States quadrupled from 1900 to 1950. It is expected to double again by 1975. By then, about 1,800 gallons a day will be used for every man, woman, and child.



Industry now exceeds agriculture in total water withdrawals.

Water is industry's most important raw material. Depending on the methods used, production of a ton of steel requires from 6,000 to 110,000 gallons of water. Producing a thousand yards of woolen cloth requires 40,000 to 510,000 gallons of water.



Industrial uses accounted for an average of 110 billion gallons of water a day in 1955. Needs in 1975 are estimated at 215 to 275 billion gallons a day. Fortunately, about 90 percent of water withdrawn for industrial use can be recirculated in the same plants or returned to streams for other uses.

Although industry now surpasses agriculture in total withdrawals, irrigation still is the greatest consumer of water. Growing crops require a lot of water. It takes 115 gallons of water to grow enough wheat to make one loaf of bread.



The rapid spread of urban areas brings a like expansion of municipal water systems. In 1950 the Nation's cities and towns used 14 billion gallons of water a day. Estimates of 1975 needs range from 20 to 34 billion gallons a day. In some areas, urban growth already is hampered by limited water supplies.

### Federal Help

The Federal Government assists with the solution of water and watershed problems primarily through: The Department of Agriculture; the Department of the Interior; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and the Department of the Army through the Corps of Engineers.

Most of these activities are carried on in cooperation with the States, counties, municipalities, soil conservation districts, and other governmental subdivisions or local organizations.

The work of each Federal department complements that of the others.

### Watershed Activities of USDA

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps local communities with watershed protection and water management in many ways.



Because runoff and insoak — and consequently floods and water yield — are influenced by the condition of watershed land and cover, the Department's soil-, water-, and forest-conservation activities are important in watershed management.

Technical help to farmers and ranchers, cost-sharing and loans for conservation practices, research, and education help landowners and users to control runoff and conserve water in the Nation's agricultural watersheds. The Department also helps farmers to make more efficient use of water through conservation irrigation methods.

### Water From National Forests

Water is probably the most valuable product the American people get from the 181 million acres of

national forest lands, although these lands also provide outdoor recreation, wildlife, grazing range, and timber.

Each time you turn on your home faucet for a drink of water—if you live in Denver, Los Angeles, Asheville, N.C., or in any one of about 1,800 other communities—you are a consumer of this product from national forest watersheds. The headwaters of many of the Nation's great rivers rise on national forests—the Colorado, the Rio Grande, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, the Tennessee, the Chattahoochee, the Arkansas, the Missouri, the Platte, the Allegheny, the Monongahela, the Snake and other major tributaries of the Columbia.



### Watershed Projects

USDA provides technical and financial aid to local communities with specific watershed problems that can be dealt with through projects under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act and its amendments.

Each project is initiated by local people through their own organizations or governmental subdivisions, and each application for watershed assistance must be approved by the State before it is submitted to the Department.

Municipalities, conservancy districts, and counties as well as soil conservation districts are among the sponsors of the 264 small watershed projects, covering 15.8 million acres, which were underway July 1, 1960. In addition, 302 other projects had been approved for Federal assistance in planning. A total of 1,319 State-approved applications had been received by USDA.



These projects combine conservation treatment of watershed lands with needed water-control structures for flood prevention and water management and utilization on watersheds of not more than 250,000 acres in size.

Local people are providing \$148 million of the estimated cost of the 264 operating projects, with the Federal Government to provide up to \$210 million.

In cooperation with other Federal departments and the States, USDA participates in comprehensive studies of major river basins, such as the Missouri. It also coordinates snow surveys to forecast water yield from mountain watersheds in the Western States. These forecasts enable farmers, municipalities, and industries to adjust operations to available water.

Assistance to farmers and ranchers through other soil, water, and forestry conservation programs contribute directly or indirectly to better management of the water that reaches the land as rain or snow. Water use becomes more efficient, and water wastage is reduced, through conservation irrigation.





All measures used to control or reduce soil erosion by water reduce the sediment that flows into streams—sediment that may eventually displace water-storage capacity of reservoirs with mud and sand. Erosion control also reduces water-purification costs and helps to solve a pollution problem.

*The work of these USDA agencies assists directly or indirectly with water conservation, management, and use, or with flood prevention and watershed development:*

*Agricultural Conservation Program Service through State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committees.*

*Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with State agricultural experiment stations and other agencies.*

*Commodity Stabilization Service through State and County ASC Committees.*

*Farmers Home Administration.*

*Federal Extension Service in cooperation with State Extension Services.*

*Forest Service in cooperation with State forestry agencies.*

*Rural Electrification Administration in cooperation with rural electrification cooperatives.*

*Soil Conservation Service, primarily through soil conservation districts.*

*For local information on USDA's soil, water, and forest conservation work, see your county agricultural agent, visit the local office of the foregoing agencies, or contact a representative of a State or local agency with which USDA cooperates.*

## Cost-Sharing and Credit

Financial help, as credit services or as cost-sharing for establishing soil and water conservation practices, is available from USDA to individual farmers, groups of farmers, or certain organizations created under authority of State law.

Loans help individuals put in new irrigation or water-supply systems or to improve existing facilities. Individuals also may secure loans to carry out needed conservation practices.

Loans also are available to local organizations for works of improvement to protect and develop land and water resources in small watersheds. These improvements may include rural water-supply and distribution systems, water-supply reservoirs, diversion dams, wells, irrigation canals, and drainage facilities.

Nearly 24,000 farmers and more than 400 local associations and organizations have borrowed about \$90 million since 1939 to help them solve soil and water problems. Almost \$50 million has been repaid, plus \$9.5 million in interest.

Three USDA programs provide cost-sharing help with soil and water conservation practices which contribute to watershed protection.



million farms for approved soil, water, and woodland conservation practices. Among measures of primary importance in water conservation were water-storage

reservoirs, sod waterways, conservation cover of grass and trees, and terraces.

All participating farms are in watersheds. However, in the various watershed and flood-prevention projects in which USDA has direct responsibility, more than \$9.3 million of ACP cost-sharing was provided last year on 45,288 farms.

(2) Under the Conservation Reserve, farmers voluntarily sign contracts to take cropland out of production. Land placed in the Conservation Reserve is devoted to trees, grass, wildlife habitat, or water-conservation measures. The Department provides a part of the cost of establishing the approved conservation use on the contracted land, as well as annual payments to the owners for keeping the land out of production. No new land can be taken into the program in 1961.

More than 28.4 million acres of former cropland on 305,000 farms are in the Conservation Reserve. The required conservation cover protects the land, prevents erosion, reduces runoff, and contributes to steady streamflow. For example, nearly 26 million acres of former cropland are in grass and more than 300 thousand acres in cover that will produce food and protection for wildlife. More than 2 million acres are in new plantings of trees and shrubs.



(3) The Great Plains Conservation Program, a special regional program available in most of the Plains counties of 10 States, provides cost-sharing under contract to help farmers and ranchers carry out complete soil- and water-conservation plans. Cost-share payments are made as portions of the plan are completed. The States are Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Length of these contracts is averaging about 4 years.

## Water Research

Extensive research in cooperation with State agricultural experiment stations and other agencies paves the way for improved water-use and water-management methods in agriculture.

This research ranges from basic studies of the relationships between water, soil, and plants to salvaging of waste water for agricultural use, from determination of water yield and runoff characteristics of principal agricultural areas of the country to development of methods for control of sedimentation, and from appraisals of the effect on farm operations of watershed-development programs to legal and economic investigations of water law and its administration.

Other special hydrologic studies are being conducted on national forest and related range lands which, because of their elevation, are important water-producing areas. Objectives of this research are to reduce sediment and flood damage, to avoid erosion, to raise both quality and quantity of water wherever possible, and generally to harmonize the use of this vital resource with other forest resources to best serve the most people.



## Educational Assistance

Two major watershed-educational jobs are to help people to understand the problems and potentials of the watershed in which they live and to work locally with leaders, organizations, and agencies in gathering needed facts and developing improvement programs.



USDA relies principally on the Cooperative Extension Services of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities to provide the needed educational services. County agricultural agents and State extension

specialists work with rural and urban people in each community to help them identify their watershed area and understand the expected benefits from various improved watershed management and development programs.

Specific practice demonstrations are conducted. Groups interested in watershed development are assisted with ground and air tours to study their problems. Completion and use of county conservation-needs inventories of watersheds is encouraged. Educational materials are prepared and distributed to provide information on locally applicable watershed developments, new legislation, and available programs.

## Water and Rural Development

The cooperative Rural Development Program increases opportunities in rural areas through promotion of better resource use by both industry and agriculture.



Basic resources in any rural area are manpower skills—existing and potential—and natural resources—land, forests, minerals, water.

Sound conservation and use of water resources undergirds every effective, long-term Rural Development Program. Water control and supply are essential to the needs of expanding industry and a productive agriculture. For that reason, local committees and agency workers in Rural Development Program areas emphasize community planning and management of water-resource development using as tools available Federal and State programs.

## Electricity and Water

Electricity pumps water to the places where we want to use it, and then heats it or chills it to our needs.

Rural electrification loans by USDA to local cooperatives since 1935 have meant that farmers can use electric power to bring water through pressure systems into their homes, and into the dairy barns, chicken houses, workshops, and other farm outbuildings. Electric power also drives countless irrigation pumps.

Today, 97 percent of the Nation's farms have electric service. Rural consumers are doubling their use of electric power every 7 years. The combination of electric power and water systems has helped make countless farm homes as modern as those of their urban neighbors, and farming more efficient and more profitable.

## Watershed Activities of Interior

The Department of the Interior is responsible, directly or in cooperation with other Federal, State, or local agencies, for many phases of water investigation, water development, and watershed protection, including irrigation, flood control, hydroelectric power, and recreation.

## Water-Resource Studies

Interior is the source of information on how much water we have, how we are using it, and its quality.

Studies going back more than a half century include the collection and analysis of current water statistics; determination of the quantities of water in rivers and lakes; the location and quantities of underground waters; the chemical and physical qualities of ground and surface waters; rates, sources, and effects of erosion; evaporation losses from rivers and lakes; effects of land- and water-management practices; and many other similar projects.

Interior operates more than 7,000 gages on river basins and lakes and about 10,000 observation wells throughout the country to determine streamflow, frequency of floods, frequency and duration of low flows, and trends and changes in ground-water storage. It cooperates with other agencies in hydrologic studies of small watersheds to aid in evaluating effects of reservoirs on erosion control, floodwater detention, water distribution in the basins, and land-management and water-management practices.

Water samples are collected routinely at more than 800 locations to provide information on the occurrence and movements of dissolved minerals and sediments in our water supplies.



The effects of discharging radioactive wastes into our rivers and underground water supplies also receive considerable study.

Because these investigations are directly concerned with the technical aspects of water resources and hydrology, Interior maintains a program of research and development coordinated with its investigational activities.

One of the many research projects seeks to solve the problem of salt-water encroachment in underground fresh waters in coastal areas, such as Los Angeles, Savannah, and Long Island.

More than 60 percent of the funds spent last year on investigations and research was matched by local and State agencies or furnished by other Federal agencies.



## Water for Fish, Wildlife



Fish and wildlife values in Federal water-development projects and in non-Federal hydroelectric power and other projects are given careful consideration by Interior.

Under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Interior investigates these project plans and recommends measures to protect and improve the fish and wildlife resources involved.

Similarly, under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act and in close cooperation with USDA and the State game and fish agencies, Interior studies and recommends measures for protection and improvement of fish and wildlife resources in small watershed projects. This Act now provides Federal financial assistance in develop-



ment of watersheds for enhancement and improvement of fish and wildlife along with flood prevention and other phases of the program.

Interior gives special attention to preservation of wet lands and other measures required to discharge the Nation's responsibilities for management of migratory waterfowl.

Interior also assists other Federal agencies to develop fishery management plans for public waters under the jurisdiction of these agencies and cooperates with the States in supplying fish for stocking of public waters.

### Indian Lands

Interior provides technical help in soil- and moisture-conservation work to operators of lands on Indian reservations and works with the Department of Agriculture in the small watersheds program.

Since 1867, Interior has been constructing and operating irrigation works and developing irrigable lands for use by Indians living on many of the western reservations. These works now serve more than 870,000 acres of the Indian estate, and similar improvements are being planned for an additional 200,000 acres.

### Public Domain

Public lands under Interior's management include about 650 community watersheds on nearly 186 million acres of watershed lands in the Western States. Interior also administers another 275 million acres in the 49th State—Alaska.

A quarter century ago the Taylor Grazing Act gave Interior the responsibility for arresting deterioration of areas on more than 100 million acres of Federal grazing land. Practices include regulation of grazing, seeding, contour furrowing, and building of major structures for water detention and spreading. The results are improved range and water supply.

Both in its range management and on the more than 9 million acres of forest lands on western watersheds, Interior works cooperatively with private landowners and local and other government agencies on an individual community watershed basis.

### Making Salt Water Fresh

To develop a new source of supply to meet our growing demands for fresh water, Interior is conducting a research program to develop low-cost processes for converting sea or brackish water to fresh usable supplies.

Significant progress has been achieved and will be demonstrated in five saline water-conversion plants authorized by Congress.

Three plants will be for conversion of sea water to fresh: A million-gallon-a-day plant at Freeport, Tex.; another million-gallon-a-day plant near San Diego, Calif.; and a 350,000-gallon-a-day plant on the east coast.

Two plants will be for conversion of brackish water to fresh: A 250,000-gallon-a-day plant at Webster, S. Dak., and a 350,000-gallon-a-day plant at Roswell, N. Mex., using a forced-circulation vapor-compression process.

### Reclamation

Interior has had a significant part in watershed improvement in the 17 Western States for more than half a century, through impounding and distributing water for beneficial use, especially irrigation of cropland.

Under authority of the Reclamation Act of 1902, Interior has constructed more than 150 main storage dams, hundreds of miles of canals, and other structures.

As a result, sections of the arid West now have farms producing vegetable, meat, and fruit products much in demand at the marketplace.

Some of the extra benefits of water impoundment are flood control, improved navigation, streamflow regulation, wildlife and fishery enhancement, recreation, and the production of hydroelectric power, much of which is used to pump water through distribution systems.

### National Parks

The national parks embrace some of the world's outstanding examples of geologic erosion—such as the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Bryce Canyon, and the Badlands.

No attempt is made to control natural forces of erosion of these wonderlands.

But accelerated erosion, caused by man, is brought under control on lands newly acquired for parks and monuments.

The protected, uncut forests and





vegetation in the parks serve as natural barriers against erosion and safeguard important watersheds.

*These agencies of the Department of Interior carry out this Department's responsibilities for water and watershed activities:*

*The Geological Survey  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
The Office of Saline Water  
The Bureau of Indian Affairs*

*For local information on the work of these Interior agencies, visit their local, State, or regional offices, or the offices of State and local agencies with whom they work, or write the Interior agencies in Washington, D.C.*

## Water Activities of HEW

Water can be bad—fouled or polluted by man himself to the extent that it is unfit for human consumption, for growing crops, for fish and waterfowl, or even for industrial use.

Today the cities, States, and the Federal Government are cooperating in a "clean streams" program under the Federal Water Pollution Control Law of 1956. This program is administered by the U.S. Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

Under the construction grant provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Law, communities putting up their own funds in a 4-to-1 ratio have completed 973 sewage-treatment projects, with 619 others under construction April 30, 1960.

*For local information on the pollution-control work of the Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, visit the State or regional office of this agency or contact your city or county public health officer.*

The Federal Government has granted \$176 million to 2,104 communities throughout the Nation in support of sewage-treatment works costing \$1,021 million. Applications from 612 other communities are being processed for an additional \$63 million in Federal grants.

The 2,104 projects for which grants have been made will reduce pollution from municipal wastes in more than 20,000 miles of streams to a level acceptable to the States' water-pollution control agencies.

Nearly 8 out of every 10 of the approved projects were for new sewage-treatment works. They represent the first sewage-treatment facilities ever built in 1,122 communities, as well as replacement of inadequate facilities in 422 other communities.

The new Federal law provides means for scientists and technicians to probe into the nature of new water pollutants created by new chemical and other industries. A national network of stream sampling stations is gathering basic water-quality data.

The new law also provides a Federal enforcement procedure for enforcing the law's antipollution provisions. Under this enforcement procedure, 11 conferences and 3 hearings have been held. Involved in these proceedings were 8 major waterways, 215 industrial establishments, 95 munic-

ipalities, 20 States, and 3,800 miles of watercourse.

Another important service of HEW is to certify the purity of water supplies used by railroads, airlines, busses, and vessels. The 841 Interstate Carrier Water Supplies certified to meet Public Health Service drinking water standards also serve a resident population of about 85 million—more than 70 percent of the Nation's people depending on public water supplies.



## Water Resources Activities of the Army

The Department of the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, is responsible for planning and carrying out, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, and with States and local agencies, the Federal Civil Works program authorized by Congress for navigation, flood control, and related water-resources developments.

**Navigation:**—The planning and provision of facilities for navigation including the inland and intra-coastal waterways, the Great Lakes Harbors and connecting channels, and the harbors on the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coasts.

**Flood Control:**—Improvements for flood control on a nationwide basis, including levees, floodwalls, channel improvements, and reservoirs for storage of floodwaters, and the provision of major drainage outlets.

**Hydroelectric Power:**—Provision for development of hydroelectric power at multiple-purpose projects constructed under the programs for navigation and flood control in accord with comprehensive plans for river-basin development.

**Water Supply:**—Provisions of storage for municipal and industrial water supply.

**Other Functions:**—The multiple-purpose projects and waterways provide substantial opportunities for recreational use, for preservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, and for improvement of low flow conditions in streams with resulting abatement of pollution and improvement of water quality, but not as a substitute for control of pollution at its source.

**Beach Protection:**—Under a separate authorization by the Congress, the Corps of Engineers carries out in conjunction with State and local agencies a program of beach protection and control of beach erosion.

**Flood-Plain Information:**—Under Public Law 86-645, the Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide flood-plain information when requested by States and municipalities to aid them in zoning or regulating use of flood plains.

*The water-resources work of the Corps of Engineers is carried out by a decentralized organization of 10 engineer divisions and 41 engineer districts, including districts in Alaska and Hawaii. In the continental United States the divisions and districts cover major river basins or coastal areas. Information on civil-works programs affecting any locality can be obtained by contact with these field offices, or through the conservation and public works agencies of the various States, or may be obtained from the Civil Works Division of the Office, Chief of Engineers, in Washington, D.C.*



# WATER

FOR FARM and CITY

A USDA MOTION PICTURE

13½ minutes, black and white, cleared for television.

This 16 mm. film tells the story of water for farm, city, industry, recreation, and wildlife. It explains why water problems—floods, shortages, and pollution—affect everyone. Ideal for telecasting or for group showings on any occasion when watershed and water problems are being considered. Request prints from your Land-Grant College film library, from the Soil Conservation Service State Office, or write Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

## Other 16mm. Films Available

### Water for the West

Sound, color, 25 minutes. This natural color film of our principal Rocky Mountain watersheds, shows how last year's mountain snowfall affects your next year's garden, and why forest management or a forest fire miles away may change the water pressure in your kitchen. Especially suitable in the 17 Western States.

### Waters of Coweeta

Sound, black and white or color, 20 minutes. Illustrates research being carried on at the hydrologic laboratory on the Coweeta Experimental Forest of North Carolina. Emphasizes relationship between watershed practices and the flow of water in streams. Particularly suited to the Eastern States.

### From the Ridge to the River

Sound, color, 26 minutes. This film tells the story of local watershed protection and flood prevention. Explains land treatments and work on watercourses, and tells how they are integrated to provide watershed protection which gives both farm and city a greater security against floods.

Prints of these three films for *telecasting* may be requested from Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Request prints for *group showings* of "Water for the West" and "Waters of Coweeta" from regional offices of the Forest Service; of "From the Ridge to the River" from State Offices of the Soil Conservation Service; or ask Motion Picture Service, USDA, for nearest source.

### George Washington's River

Sound, color, 28 minutes. New release by U.S. Public Health Service. Vivid portrayal of pollution of the lower Potomac River, once described as "the sweetest and greatest river ever seen." Its problems are basic to those of every polluted river in the country. The film shows methods by which cities and industries can clean up their wastes and their streams. Prints may be purchased at \$95.42 per print from Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D.C. Some loan prints already are available in the States. Write U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Water Pollution Control, Washington 25, D.C. for State sources.

### Columbia Frontier

Sound, color, 30 minutes. Construction of Grand Coulee Dam on Columbia River in Washington State. Transformation of Northwest through conservation and use of water resources. Shows role of multiple-purpose dams, canals, and hydropower facilities. Request loan prints from Division of General Services, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior, Washington 25, D.C.

## YOU CAN HELP

Water is vital to you, wherever you live. If your community has a water problem—shortage, flood, or pollution—you can help with the solution. Learn all you can about any water problem of your community. Find out how this problem is related to the land in your watershed.

Find out about the quality, quantity, and dependability of the water supply in your own community—water for homes, for business, industry, and agriculture, for recreation and wildlife.



Ask for progress reports on solving local water or watershed problems. This information is available to you from the local representatives of the Federal agencies with water or watershed responsibilities, or from the local agencies or organizations with which the Federal Government cooperates.

If any project dealing with any other water problem is being considered in your community, study the problem that the project is intended to solve. Ask about anticipated costs of the proposed work. Ask about benefits expected.

If you live in or near an operating watershed-protection and flood-prevention project, go see what is being done. Talk with farmers, ranchers, and urban people about this work.

When you have the facts, you can decide how you best can help to solve the water problems in your own watershed.

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